



NEWS RELEASE

NEBRASKA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (NEMA) – 1300 MILITARY ROAD – LINCOLN, NE 68508-1090

Aug. 3, 2012, 4:45 p.m. CDT

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NEMA and Nebraska National Guard Respond to Keith County Complex Fires

The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency Mobile Operation Center and three agency staff members have deployed to Keith County to assist in response to fires. In addition, two Nebraska UH60 Blackhawk Helicopters left Lincoln this afternoon. Thirteen National Guard Soldiers were deployed. National Guard soldiers are also working with NEMA on a statewide fire watch because of dry condition across the state.

The State Fire Marshal's Wildland Incident Response and Assistance Team (WIRAT) began deploying to the fires Thursday evening.

- **Eagle Canyon Hideaway Fire** – north from Brule to south shoreline of Lake McConaughy. Seven imminently threatened structures are reported with an additional 100 that could be threatened. Estimated burn of 2,500 to 3,000 acres. Not contained or controlled. Canyon terrain not accessible by ground firefighting.
- **Otter Creek Fire** – North of Otter Creek lodge on the north side of Lake McConaughy is out of control and estimated to have burned 40,000 acres with areas of canyon terrain not accessible by ground firefighters.
- **McKeage Fire** – two miles north of the Keith/Arthur County Line on Highway 61 and four west was contained, but a new breakout was reported this morning with an estimated 3,000 acres.
- **Ackley Valley Fires** – part of Haythorn Ranch, six to 10 miles north of the north end of the Kingsley Dam on Highway 61 and then west. Estimate 6,000 acres in hilly terrain.
- **Ackley Valley Fire Part of Haythorn Ranch** – 6 to 10 miles north of north end of Kingsley Dam on Highway 61 and then west – Out of control revised estimate of are burned at 6,000 acres. Hilly terrain.
- **Parker Ranch Fire** – Fire has been extinguished. Estimated burn area at 350 acres.
- **Glen Echo Fire** – Northeastern area of Keith County and into McPherson County – Estimated burn area at 7,500 acres. Areas of canyon and creek valley that is inaccessible for ground fire fighting.

Nearly 60,000 acres have been affected by in the Keith County Complex fire according to Pete Peterson, director of Keith County Emergency Management.

The weather outlook for Keith County show the winds will remain below 25 miles per hour throughout Friday with expected cooler temperatures tonight. Strong winds from the north to northwest are forecasted to begin between 9 p.m. and midnight. A chance for scattered thunderstorm are forecast for late this afternoon, however locations that get under a main storm could get some brief heavy rains.

“While storms could bring rain that would help in the firefighting efforts, they also bring lightening and with the dry conditions that could mean further chances for lightening which could start fires this evening,” said Al Berndt, assistant director of NEMA. “We are working with Keith County firefighters and emergency managers to monitor the fire and assist as the response as much as possible.”



[List of County Emergency Managers](#)

KEITH COUNTY FIRE LOCATIONS 8/3/2012

